

No, we have not slipped backward in education. We have moved forward boldly.

Never before in the history of Maryland has such an enormous building program been undertaken as our highway building program of the past eight years. I am advised that by the time our eight years of tenure has come to an end we will have spent \$1 billion on the improvement of a highway system that has come to be known as one of the finest in the entire country.

No, we have not slipped backward in road construction. We have moved forward with great vigor and great imagination.

The same can be said of our progress of health, of mental hygiene, of public welfare.

For the first time during this Administration, the State of Maryland assumed the responsibility for bringing new industry to our State and for encouraging existing industrial and commercial organizations to expand their operations.

Under our guidance, with a bold new program of conservation and rehabilitation, Maryland has regained the position it held for so many years, and then lost, as the country's largest producer of oysters.

We have doubled our acreage of parks and expanded our facilities for recreation.

One could go on at great length with the listing. But the story is, as the editorial writer said, that we have been going forward in just about every facet of the services and the function which the State government is expected to provide. Moreover, we have, I think, managed the people's treasury — the money they pay in taxes for the operation of their government — carefully and wisely, with the result that it has not been necessary, during the entire eight years, to increase the general fund tax for State purposes.

I am not trying to imply that these are achievements to be credited to any one individual or to any small group of individuals. Certainly they represent the combined efforts of a great many persons, many of them connected with the State government organizations, some of them not.

Nor am I trying to say that it is the achievement of a single political organization. Nonetheless, it is the record of an administration given the power by the people under the banner of the Democratic Party. It is, in a way then, the record of the Democratic Party in Maryland,